(b) the total amount of soft coke coal imported during the last three years and the amount spent in dollar terms; and

(c) why is technology developed by CFRI not encouraged by CIL?

THE MIN'STER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Production of soft cock is only assessed. CIL has appointed M/s. Operation Research Group Calcutta to conduct survey on "Consumer Profilei and Utilisation of Soft COke" in West Bengal and Bihar. The study conclucted by the above mentionet Operation Group concluded that a high level of satisf?,ct-ion exists in Bihar and West Bengal with the supply of soft coke.

(b) Import of coal is made under Open General Licence (OGL) and im port is not made by the Government or the coal companies. Import of coal in cluding cokes etc. are made by the consumers themselves considering their needs and exercising their own commerci al judgement. As per the statistics made available by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta a total quantity 13.68 million tonnes was importccj into the country in 1995-96 which includes coals, coke, semi/ cbke of coal/other cokes of coal/hard coke etc. No separate detail is available regarding import of soft coke.

(c) Coal India Limited have intimated that the technology developed by CFRI is being treated at par with similar tech nologies for domestic fuel developed the other agencies.

Seminar on 'coal indisttry-New Ap-proaches'

2021. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on 'Ccal Industry-New Approaches was recently organised in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the broad features of the MminaK .

(c) whether Government propose to introduce a Bill to widen the scope of private sector participation in the coal industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Thirty six individuals were invited to participate in the seminar. The Secretaroesto Govemmen' of India in the conesmed Ministries, the Chairmen of Coal India Limi'ted, Singareni Corienes Compa'jy Limited and Neweli Lignite Corporatita, the Principal Associations of Commerce and Industrry and the companies for whom blocks for captVe coal mining have been identified, were the participnts. The major obiec*ive was to elicit view's on imprpving production, marketing, access to investment finance and to suggest measures to reduce procedural bottlenecks.

(o) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Bill seeks to amend Section 3 of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act 1973 to allow the Indian companies in the public and private sector to miner coal and liguite without the existing res-trict'nn of minins for caoive coniump-tion for power generatioii, iron and steel production and cement production.

कोयले की खपत तथा जर का उत्पादन

2022. **प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा :** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करें कि **:**

(क) भारत में कोयले की खपत कितनी है तथा उसका उत्पादन कितना है,

(ख) भारत में कोयले का अनुमानित भंडार कितना है,

(ग) प्रतिवर्ष कितने कोयले का आयात किया जाता है, और